

## LWVW REDISTRICTING TESTIMONY FOR IRC PUBLIC HEARING

DECEMBER 5, 2021

The League of Women Voters of Westchester (LWVW) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Independent Redistricting Commission's continuing remapping efforts as to New York State's Congressional House Districts and NYS Senate and Assembly Districts for Westchester County. The LWVW also appreciates the complexities and challenges that the IRC faces given that we have also engaged in the study, research, and drafting of maps using Districtr mapping software.

In addition to the recommendations provided with the LWVW's previously submitted testimony, concern has grown over the loss of one U.S. Congressional House seat in New York State. During the White Plains November 8<sup>th</sup> public hearing, the IRC explained that the redistricting process starts with Erie County in the West and Suffolk County in East and moves toward the middle to complete the process. Westchester County is the middle point. **Hence, it is Westchester County that loses a U.S. Congressional House representative in Washington, D.C.** Both sets of IRC draft plans reduce Westchester County's Congressional House representation from three to two *even though*, based upon Census 2020 statistics, Westchester County saw the 7<sup>th</sup> highest growth in the New York City Metro Area, and grew more than the New York State population as a whole to reach a population of 1,004,457 at a 5.8% growth rate. Out of 62 counties in New York State, Westchester is ranked 7<sup>th</sup>.

Despite Westchester County's growth, the LWVW recognizes that the IRC faces legal constraints in shaping legislative districts. We are well aware of the population size an ideal district must contain, including the 10% variance (+5%/-5%). Therefore, following careful study and mapping exercises, the LWVW has reached consensus that productive Congressional House representation can be attained via two condensed districts: Southern and Northern Westchester. We recommend:

- Southern Westchester start at the Westchester County line, eliminating Bronx County as it is a borough of New York City, and ending north around Archville/Mount Pleasant.
- Northern Westchester start at the proposed northern border of Southern Westchester district, and move west and north to include Rockland, Putnam, and a small portion of Dutchess Counties. These geographic areas share the Hudson River and other communities of interest. The LWVW does not recommend going much beyond Beacon/Fishkill areas in Dutchess County as the northern district border.

Today's testimony focuses upon U.S. Congressional House mapping. As the LWVW represents Westchester County, we additionally support all previously submitted testimonies from the local leagues of Larchmont/Mamaroneck, New Castle, Northeast, and Scarsdale. Each local league has effectively presented issues that exist with the current Names and Letters maps.

Also as previously submitted, the LWVW is laser-focused on combatting districts that are gerrymandered to benefit politicians and political parties rather than citizens. **We hold that it is the voters who select their representatives, not the politicians who select their voters.** To this end, please refrain from mapping through a political lens. Give communities of interest and populations priority so that representatives will, in actuality, represent and work for their constituencies.

The people want their voices heard. We expect nothing less from those whom we elect to represent us than to actively listen, to accurately represent our voices, and to take actions to meet our needs. To that end, we look toward the day when all legislative maps are fairly drawn and each district enables each person one meaningful vote.

The LWVW respectfully submits this testimony today, and asks the IRC to consider our recommendations.

Kathy Meany, President  
League of Women Voters of Westchester

LWVW Redistricting Committee  
December 8, 2021

## Summary

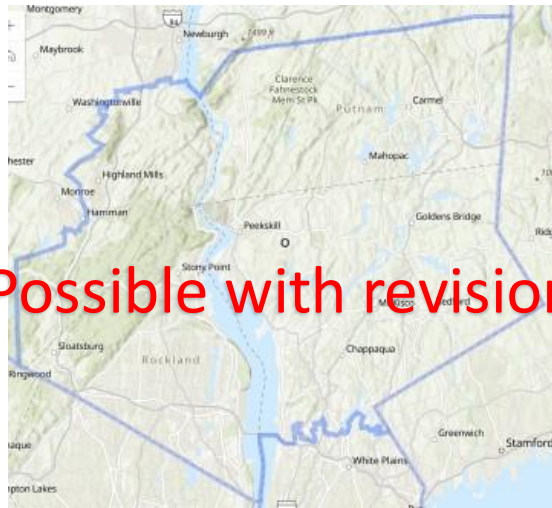
### League of Women Voters of Westchester

- Mapping Software: Districtr
- URL: <https://districtr.org/plan/88851>
- LWVW Recommendations:
  - Eliminate Bronx County of NYC from all Westchester County districts.
  - Revise Southern Westchester CD Draft Plan- Letters CD O - to remove Bronx County and extend north to Archville, Mt. Pleasant.
  - Delete Southern Westchester CD Draft Plan- Names CD DCHSWSTCHSR.
  - Revise either Northern Westchester CD Draft Plans- Names CD YONKERS and Letters CD S as both are similar. Remove Bronx County.
  - Review all LWVW draft maps on slides 4 – 6.
  - Review all previous testimonies submitted by LWV of Westchester, Larchmont/Mamaroneck, New Castle, Northeast, and Scarsdale in November 2021.

# Draft Plans – Congressional Districts for Northern Westchester County



Names – CD DCHSWSTCHSR



Possible with revision

Letters – CD O

# Draft Plans – Congressional Districts for Southern Westchester County

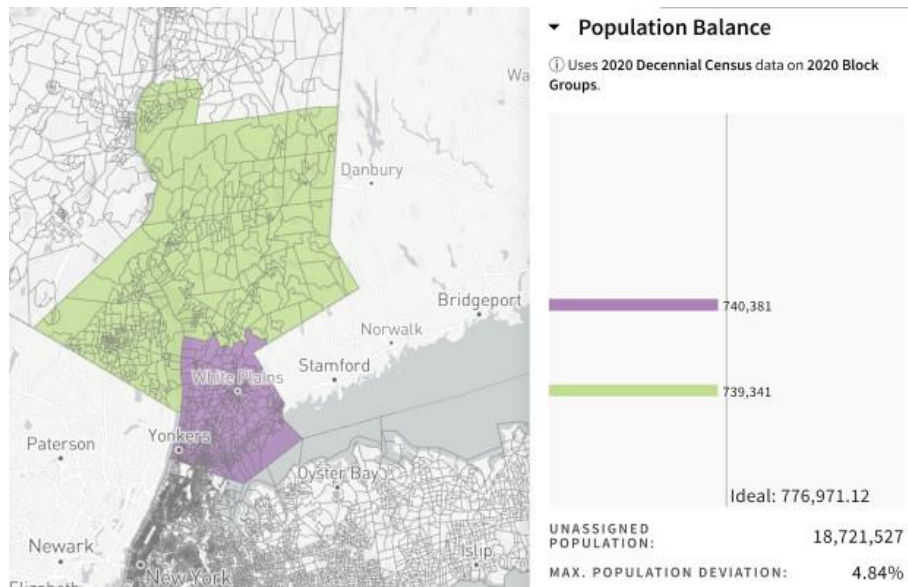


Names – YONKERS

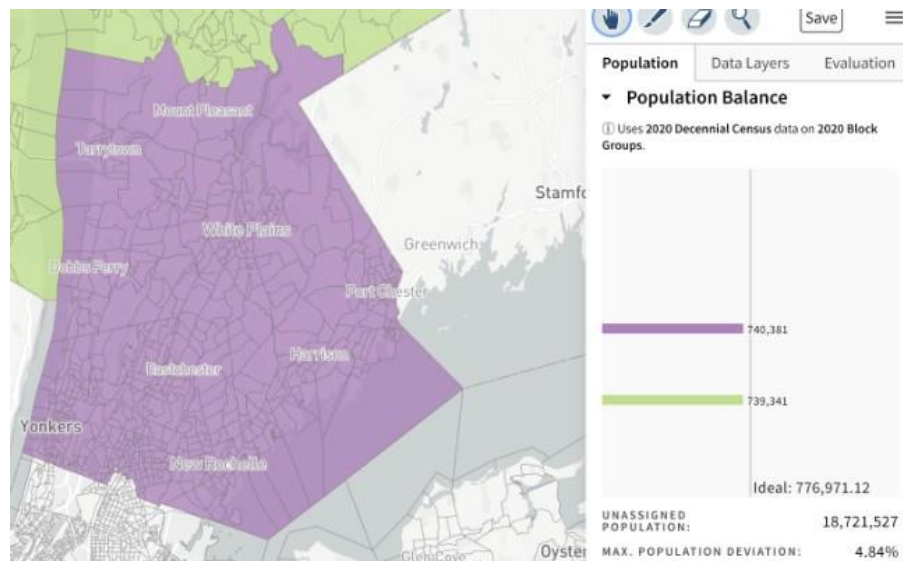


Letters – CD S

## Draft Plans by League of Women Voters of Westchester -- Two Congressional Districts for Westchester County



## Draft Plan by League of Women Voters of Westchester Congressional Districts for Southern Westchester County



# Draft Plan by League of Women Voters of Westchester Congressional Districts for Northern Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess

